

**Fact Sheet****May 2005****FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member****Prospective Voter Requirements**

A person who meets the requirements in Numbers 1 or 2 below, plus Number 3 is eligible to vote.

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:
 - An individual;
 - The authorized representative of an entity.
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. Participate or cooperate in any FSA program that is provided for by law.

Discrimination Prohibited

No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

Types of Eligible Voters**Individual Voter**

An individual voter is someone who meets one or more of the following:

- Is eligible to vote on one's own right;
- Is a partner of a general partnership;
- Is a member of a joint venture; or
- Represents only oneself.

Nonindividual Voter

A nonindividual voter is a legal entity, such as a:

- Corporation, estate, trust, limited partnership, or other business enterprise, excluding general partnerships and joint ventures; or
- State, political subdivision of a state, or any state agency.

Only the designated representative may cast a vote for the entity.

Interpretation of Voting Eligibility for Spouses in Community Property States

In community property states, the spouse of an eligible voter is eligible to vote.

American Indian Tribal Lands

Every member of an American Indian tribe is considered a landowner if the land in question is tribally owned or held in trust for the tribe by the United States. Members of American Indian tribes holding agricultural land are eligible to vote if voting requirements are met.

Voting Limitations**Local Administrative Areas**

A county or multi-county area served by the county committee is divided into 3 to 5 local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. A person may only vote in one LAA in each county or multi-county area in which they participate or cooperate in FSA programs or programs administered by the FSA.

Multiple Farm Interests in Same County or Area

Eligible voters who participate in or cooperate in FSA programs on separate farms in more than one LAA in the same county or multi-county area may only cast one ballot. Such voters must choose only one LAA in which they wish to cast their ballots.

Different Counties or Areas

Eligible voters with separate farming interests in more than one county or multi-county area are eligible to vote in the election conducted for each county committee. Voting is limited to an LAA in which farming interests are located. Only one vote may be cast in each county.

Fact Sheet

FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member

Eligibility to Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility requirements described below:

1. Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
2. Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
3. Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

NOTE: In some cases, this requirement may be waived. Check with the local county office.

4. A person must not have been:
 - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate, or employee;
 - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement, or any other felony; or
 - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

NOTE: The State committee or Deputy Administrator for Field Operations, Washington, DC, may waive any requirement in number 4.

People uncertain about their eligibility to vote in the county committee election should contact their local FSA office. Affirmation of eligibility to vote must be determined

in order for a vote to count in an election.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

During the election period, individuals not receiving a ballot in the mail may obtain a ballot directly from their FSA county office.

For More Information

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> on the Internet or your local USDA Service Center.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.